

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 34642 170505Z
ACTION H-02

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ISO-00 EA-12 /020 W
-----088001 171213Z /11

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5597

UNCLAS BANGKOK 34642

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN THE ARANYAPRATHET REFUGEE CAMP

FOR H. PASS HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE,
STEPHEN NELSON.

1. STEPHEN NELSON, A MEMBER OF THE HIRC STAFDEL THAT
RECENTLY VISITED THAILAND, ASKED OUR HELP NOVEMBER 27
IN GETTING RESPONSES FROM THE UNHCR BANGKOK REPRESENTATIVE.
HIS TWO QUESTIONS WERE:

A. WHAT IS THE UNHCR'S POSITION AS TO WHY 3000
OF THE CAMBODIANS AT ARANYAPRATHET CAMP DO NOT
QUALIFY AS REFUGEES FOR UNHCR ASSISTANCE?

B. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE UNHCR'S EFFORTS
TO GET THE WATER AND SANITARY SYSTEM FUNCTIONING
PROPERLY AT THE ARANYAPRATHET CAMP?

2. WE JUST RECEIVED A DECEMBER 9 LETTER FROM LESLIE
A. GOODYEAR, UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE FOR WESTERN SOUTH
ASIA. THE TEXT FOLLOWS:

3. "I REFER TO THE LETTER FROM MR. RICHARD R. BROWN
CONCERNING THE QUESTIONS PRESENTED BY MR. NELSON
IN CONNECTION WITH ARANYAPRATHET CAMP.

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4. "FIRSTLY, WITH REGARD TO THE 3000 WHO "DO NOT
QUALIFY AS REFUGEES FOR UNHCR ASSISTANCE", THE
SITUATION, PRESENTLY, IS SOMEWHAT UNCLEAR. FOLLOWING
A STRONG SECURITY DRIVE IN THE AREA STARTING IN JULY
LAST, THE NUMBER OF INHABITANTS IN THE CAMPS INCREASED
FROM 4000 TO 7000 VIRTUALLY OVERNIGHT.

5. "ACCORDING TO REPORTS FROM OUR FIELD OFFICERS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCY WORKERS IT MAY WELL BE THAT SOME OF THE 3000 NEW ENTRANTS MAY, IN FACT, HAVE BEEN LIVING IN THAILAND FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, ARRIVING LONG BEFORE THE EMERGENCE OF THE PRESENT PROBLEM OF DISPALCED PERSONS.

6. "THE GOVERNMENT IS PRESENTLY PROVIDING THEM WITH FOOD IN THE NORMAL WAY. WE HAVE WRITTEN TO ASK WHETHER THEY DO, IN FACT, QUALIFY FOR UNHCR HELP, OR, IF NOT, WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT IS HELPING THEM FROM OTHER SOURCES.

7. "THE PROBLEM OF WATER AND SANITARY SYSTEM IS, INDEED, AN ITEM OF CONCERN. EFFORTS TO ARRANGE BOTH FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE WATER SYSTEM AND FOR THE REPAIR OF THE SEPTIC TANKS HAVE BEEN GOING ON FOR SOME MONTHS. THE MATTER WAS EVEN RAISED PUBLICLY (AT OUR INSTIGATION) AT THE SEMINAR IN SEPTEMBER. SINCE THEN WE HAVE TWICE MORE RAISED THE MATTER IN WRITING.

8. "OUR FIELD OFFICER IS ALSO PRESSING THE MATTER ON THE SPOT AND IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT THERE WILL BE SOME EARLY ACTION."
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
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Executive Order: N/A
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